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Work and Workers.

THE valuable series of books, *The Records of the Past*, will be closed with Vol. VI, recently issued.

A NEW chair, devoted to Assyriology and Comparative Religion, has been established at the Chicago Theological Seminary. Professor E. T. Harper, Ph.D., has been appointed its first occupant.

CROWELL AND CO. will soon publish a translation of "The Theology of the Old Testament," by Pastor Piepenbring, of Strassburg. The translation is made by Professor Mitchell, of Boston University.

REV. ROBERT F. HORTON, of London, the well known author of "Revelation and the Bible," has delivered the Yale lectures on Preaching this year. He is here only for the short time necessary to give these lectures.

DR. SAMUEL COX, the first editor of *The Expositor*, is recently dead. He was a voluminous writer on theological subjects, and also published commentaries on Job, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, etc. His eschatological views led, some years ago, to the severance of his connection with *The Expositor*.

PROFESSOR SAYCE reports from Egypt the discovery of an inscription which he believes to be the long-sought writing and language of Lydia. It is cut in the rocks at Silsilis, and consists of two lines of large, finely cut characters. As the rock below has been quarried out, it is possible that the inscription originally consisted of more lines.

Biblia presents a portrait, in the April number, of Dr. Edouard Naville, with a brief sketch of his work. He is said to be more familiar with the Egyptian hieroglyphics than any other man living. Miss Amelia Edwards said of him, "When we remember that every temple in Egypt was a great stone book, and when we also remember that every line in these great stone books is read by M. Naville as easily as we read the columns of the daily papers, you may perceive for yourselves how vast an accession to the great religious and historical history of Egypt we are likely to owe to his labor."

To many, the question of how to obtain good biblical maps is a difficult problem. The maps of the Palestine Exploration Fund are now to be made more accessible to the American public by being placed in the hands of the map dealers, G. W. Colton & Co. These maps, based on the surveys undertaken by the Fund, are the most perfect in existence. We also notice that a new map of Egypt has been published by the Oxford Map Publishers, Ohio, which is

said to be accurate and up to date. The longer one studies the Bible, the more impressed he is with the value of maps as an aid. The American Institute of Sacred Literature realizes this, and is now supplying to its examination classes in the second part of Acts, a small map of Paul's journeys, for constant use with the studies.

AN evidence of the increased interest in Comparative Religion is furnished by the announcement from Ginn & Co. of a series of handbooks on the History of Religions. The series will be edited by Professor Jastrow, and will consist of the following volumes: The Religion of Babylonia and Assyria, by Professor Jastrow; The Religion of Egypt, by Mrs. Stevenson; The Religion of Israel, by Professor Peters; The Religion of India, by Professor Hopkins; The Religion of Persia, by Prof. Jackson; Introduction to the History of Religions, by Professor Toy; The Religion of the Ancient Teutons, by Professor de La Saussaye. Each volume will include, in addition to the bare history, a consideration of the relation of the religion to other religions, a bibliography, and account of the sources, while maps and illustrations will add to the value of each volume. Other volumes besides those mentioned above will be added later to the series.

DR. ALEXANDER KOHUT, the author of a recent Talmudic Lexicon of vast proportions, is an example of the power of labor directed to one end. When scarcely more than a boy he decided on this great work. He is a Hungarian Jew, and in his thirteenth year discovered that the best book then known on the subject, R. Nathan's *Arukh*, was full of errors. So astonished and pained was the lad at this discovery, that he then decided to prepare a complete lexicon of his own. The remarkable thing is that he kept his resolve. He studied under the best masters, then worked at his gigantic task for twenty-five years before he saw its completion. The work was completed in New York, where he was minister of the Temple Ahavath Chesid. The money of wealthy American Jews has helped provide for the publication of these nine volumes. The work is printed entirely in unpointed Hebrew, except where etymologies or references require the use of some other language.

A COMPANY of translators have been at work in England for some time in the endeavor to produce a translation of the New Testament into the English of to-day. The aim is to make a translation which shall be idiomatic modern English, and at the same time not unfaithful to the Greek. They say that missionaries have given scores of nations a Bible in their living languages, while we ourselves have only a Bible that is in diction three hundred years old. Arrangements are now being made to enlist a company of American translators in the work. The following are the rules under which the work is being done: (1) The version is to be a translation, not a revision or a paraphrase. (2) The language to be as simple as is consistent with accuracy, all words and idioms not in common use being, as far as possible, excluded. (3).

The ordinary common usage to be followed in printing dialogues, quotations, etc. (4). The Greek text to be that of the 1891 edition of Westcott and Hort.

AN ARTICLE in the *Independent* reviews, in an interesting way, the half-century existence of the American Oriental Society. It calls attention to the great increase in Oriental studies since the origin of this society. When, in 1810, Moses Stuart went to Andover as Professor of Biblical Literature, he knew the Hebrew alphabet only, and had read very little of the text. He did not know the vowels, having used an unpointed text. Now the Oriental scholars of America equal in numbers those of any other country. During the first years of the Society, the papers of its journal were almost entirely contributed by missionaries. In fact, it was stated in an early inaugural address, that the journal was to provide a place for the publication of papers by them. The second era of the Society was one of Sanskrit study, under the leadership of Professor Whitney, the veteran scholar of Yale. After this came the era of Semitic study, which now holds the field. Not that the Indo-Germanic studies command less attention or have less interest than in the days when scholars were looking toward Sanskrit as the key to new treasures of linguistic relationship, but that Semitic scholarship has taken its proper place in the linguistic study of the country. The rapidity with which it has sprung into existence has made it almost a romance, while the interest lent to it by studies relating to biblical fields gives it an interest to the general cultured public that no mere linguistic investigation can ever hope to command.

IN *The Sunday School Times* of April 22 appears an article of interest from the discoverer of the newly-found Syriac Gospels. The discoverer is a woman, Mrs. Lewis, of Cambridge, from whom the manuscript will be called the Lewis Codex. The manuscript is a palimpsest, bearing many resemblances to the Curetonian, and probably one of the oldest yet known, dating, says Professor Harris, from at least the sixth century. Mrs. Lewis, with her sister, both travelers and scholars of no small experience, went to the famous convent of Mt. Sinai in the spring of 1892. They took with them photographic apparatus, and had in view the photographing of whatever Syriac manuscripts in the library might seem to be of value. It was while prosecuting this work that they found the Syriac Gospels. The book of one hundred and seventy-eight leaves was glued together by some greasy substance, and had to be separated with care. Realizing that the find was of value, she photographed the whole of the volume. On their return to England, the plates were examined by Syriac scholars, and some pages transcribed. Later, they returned to the convent, accompanied by Professor Harris, Professor Bensly, and Mr. Barkitt, where, for more than a month, they worked on the manuscript from sunrise to sunset. Much of it was very difficult to decipher, but large portions of it have been transcribed. Thus another gift has been bestowed on scholarship by the musty library of the old fortress-convent of Mount Sinai.